

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed October 17, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 14-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over McAlister, United States Patent No. 5,462,513, in view of Clarkson, United States Patent No. 3,090,591, and rejected claims 14-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Knelson, United States Patent No. 5,338,284, in view of Clarkson, United States Patent No. 3,090,591. Claims 14 and 25 have been amended. Claims 21 and 30 have been cancelled. It is submitted that the amended claims patentably distinguish the prior art.

As pointed out by the Examiner, Clarkson, United States Patent No. 3,090,591, does in fact mention the use of compressed air as an alternative to hydraulic pressure and the Applicants' agent apologizes for the oversight. However Clarkson does not disclose, suggest or contemplate the use of pressure relief means to avoid build-up of pressure between the valve member and the constrictor element, as Clarkson did not foresee the difficulties in adapting the valve to the environment of a centrifugal concentrator. It is submitted therefore that the person skilled in the art would not be led without some invention to the presently claimed invention.

It is submitted therefore that the amended claims are allowable, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Seed Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC



Kevin S. Costanza
Registration No. 37,801

Enclosure:
Postcard

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6300
Seattle, Washington 98104-7092
(206) 622-4900
Fax: (206) 682-6031

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